



The Iowa State Pythagorean

Published by the Corporate Board of the Iowa State Chapter of ACACIA Fraternity

Fulfilling the mission of ACACIA -- Making Good Men Better!

May, 2005

Issue # 33

Acacia Fraternity is #1 in Greek System with 3.43 G.P.A.

Pledge Class is #1 for third consecutive year with a 3.16 G.P.A.

The Spring, 2005 semester grade results are in, and Acacia continues to lay claim to the top academic honors in the Iowa State Greek System. The results for the top five chapters were as follows:

1.	Acacia	3.43
2.	Alpha Gamma Rho	3.15
3.	Beta Sigma Psi	3.07
4.	Alpha Sigma Phi	3.03
5.	Farmhouse	3.03

All Fraternity Average 2.96

All Men's Undergrad Ave. 2.76

Academic excellence has long been a hallmark of Acacia Fraternity. Our chapter has focused on attracting the best and brightest young men, and then providing them with an outstanding environment in which they can develop superior academic and social skills to become effective leaders in their chosen profession. Our previous academic results are as follows:

Term	Position	GPA
Spring, 2005	#1	3.43
Fall, 2004	#1	3.39
Spring, 2004	#1	3.38
Fall, 2003	#1	3.49
Spring, 2003	#1	3.24
Fall, 2002	#2	3.06
Spring, 2002	#2	3.19

For the **third year in a row**, the pledges of our chapter captured the top spot among all Greek Houses with an impressive **3.16 grade point average**. Their closest competitors were Phi Kappa Theta with a 2.89 and Farmhouse with a 2.72 GPA.

Acacia remains the **only** fraternity in the Iowa State Greek System with **both** the **highest affiliated GPA** and the **highest new member GPA**.

Congratulations to the men of our chapter of Acacia Fraternity!

Alumni Suggestions for Investment of Drdla Funds

In the last newsletter, the Board included a ballot on which we asked for input from the alumni with regard for the investment of the bequest we received from the Drdla estate. Reprinted below are the suggestions provided by our alumni.

Richard G. Wilson - #409
203 Woodruff Drive
Lafayette, Louisiana 70503

This is a matter that can only be decided by the Board members, who have full knowledge of the amount of money to be invested and the annual needs of the scholastic programs. Professional advise may be advisable.

Lynn R. Pendry - #469
11896 Little Elm Road

Farmington, Arkansas 72730-9600

Keep maximum flexibility. Money markets are holding accounts.

Daniel E. Wise - #479
1120 Columbiana Road
Homewood, Alabama 35209-7017

My gracious! What a generous thing for Brother Drdla to do.

I noted you had offered only two basic alternatives – money market or mutual fund – for an endowed fund. I am not up to date on the subject, as you no doubt are, but I wondered whether the funds could not be invested in U.S. Treasury Bonds, which would yield less than the 6.5% mentioned for mutual funds but would safeguard the principal amounts. Because interest rates are rising at this time, perhaps investing

in T-bills fo Treasuries with short maturity dates would be an option.

I offer this suggestion not knowing whether a 501(c)3 corporation can do this at this point. I know that years ago when our church had the proceeds from a bond issue on hand and did not need the total amount to cover current construction costs our church treasurer did invest the uncommitted funds in T-bills and, over the life of the construction project, earned a tidy return that was given to a start-up congregation as seed money for their building fund. The T-bills, beging short-term (90-days?) instruments, were convenient in that they matured as funds were needed for construction progress payments. I have not checked, but I believe that T-bills are currently earning somewhere around 3%.

Like you, I am grateful to Brother Drdla for his generosity.

**Gordon Sundberg - #501
902 South West First Street
Eagle Grove, Iowa 50533**

Find a successful rate of return on endowed – wish you could match Warren Buffet’s return of 20%! Good luck!

**William H. Anderl - #679
4911 – 33rd Avenue North
Golden Valley, Minnesota 55422**

Use of these funds should be for only undergraduate Brothers with financial need would be how I’d like to see the funds used.

Board Votes to Establish the Edwin Drdla Educational Endowment Fund

In the last newsletter we reported on the fact that Brother Edwin Drdla - #377 had bequeathed a significant amount of money to the Board through the Acacia Fraternity Foundation. We requested input from the alumni on what should be done with these funds, and many of you replied with suggestions that literally ranged from investing all of it the expendable account to placing all of it in an endowed account.

A special committee of the Board (Chip Riedmann, Jeremy Davis and John Kvinge) was appointed to develop a proposal for consideration by the Board for the use of these funds. As was reported in the last issue of the newsletter, the Board had a number of options for the use of these funds.

After considerable discussion, the Board voted to split the \$200,000 in funds that we have received so far by placing

\$40,000 in the chapter account (an expendable account) and \$160,000 in the endowed fund (in which only the interest may be used).

We will be receiving a second payment from the estate in the near future. We don’t know when that will occur as the accountant handling the estate is waiting for a final letter of approval from the Internal Revenue Service. Once that happens, we will receive the balance of the amount allocated to us from the estate. All of the funds from the second payment will be placed in the endowed account once they are received.

We would like to thank all of the alumni who provided us with input on how to invest these funds, and we hope that you will support our decision on the use and investment of these funds.

Alumni Recall Their Days in the Fraternity

In the last edition of the newsletter, we requested that the alumni share some stories of their days in the Fraternity. The following are the submissions that we received from a variety of the Brothers. Read on, you may recall some of these events!

**A. Dean Platt - #321
3905 Oak Park Circle
Waterloo, Iowa 50701**

It wasn’t my best of fondest memory, but it was a long walk home in the middle of a cold, wet night. Moral of

the story: Don’t be too hard on the pledges if they have wheels and know the country.

**Al Wiese - #351
99 Table Rock Drive
Holiday Island, Arkansas 72631**

As I remember – during the Chapter meeting on December 7th, 1941, a pledge who had been listening to the radio upstairs interrupted the meeting to tell us abou the attack on Pearl Harbor. Does anyone remember the name of the pledge that broke up the meeting?

**Robert L. (Sam) Carstens - #354
3108 Northwood Drive**

Ames, Iowa 50010-4753

During Freshman Days in the fall of 1942, Julian (Chuck) Basgaard and I were guides/hosts for the incoming freshman. We inducted a dozen or more to come to the house and, in effect, become rushees. About eight or ten of them, including Ed Drdla, eventually pledged Acacia. Their roll numbers probably started with Richard Dingle (#368) and included Chuck Dozois (#379). I had know Chuck in Cedar Rapids and he became my roommate that year. My brother John (#374) was also in that pledge class.

That was a war year and few of the freshmen got to finish the year. One would get his draft notice and we would hold an initiation. We averaged a couple of initiations per month through the Fall and Winter quarters.

Anyway, I feel responsible, along with Chuck Vasgaard, for Ed Drdla becoming an Acacian.

Best wishes to you and thanks for the job you are doing as President of The Acacians.

**Daniel E. Wise - #479
1120 Columbiana Road
Homewood, Alabama 35209-7017**

A couple of the alumni remembrances in the latest Pythagorean brought back of couple of memories to me as well. As John Fulkerson said, the memories are fading fast, and some of the details below might faulty. If so, help me out, guys.

The KD's (Kappa Delta) at that time were a friendly and good-natured group and our across-the-street neighbors. As it happened, Acacia had in its possession a large chunk of stone that had supposedly been dug up from the lawn sometime before I joined the house. It had majical powers of levitation that were sometimes manifested by the stone finding its way to the 3rd floor dorm and inot someone's bed. At the time I was one campus (1952-56) it was called Keelhorn's Rock.

One night our ver good quartet went across the street to serande the KD's at dinner and, you guessed it, Keelhorn's Rock levitated itw way into their living room. I think they responded by stealing our desert one night while their singers entertained us. Then there was the time that Tom Perry's (do I have that right?) model A coupe drove itself onto the front porch of the house. Our pledge class's "escape" was to Iowa City – with all the dining room silverware.

Active Chapter Report

*Trenton Norman, Venerable Dean - ACACIA Fraternity
138 Gray Avenue
Ames, Iowa 50014
e-mail: norman63@iastate.edu*

Ah, yes, those were fine time – and fun, too.

**Gary L. Ruegsegger - #613
4609 Mariner Way – Apt. #106
Fort Myers, Florida 33919**

Mom Dinsmore teaching legions of Acacians to play bridge and Mel Stout's cooking. He always had a leftover plate for me if I worked late at the Iowa State Daily.

**Takenori Aso - #660
84 Sycamore Lane
Buena Park, California 90621
714-994-1512
taso@fullerton.edu**

I recently retired after 31 years of teaching sociology at California State University, Fullerton. I was CSU Resident Director at Waseda University in Tokyo during 1998-2000 and 2003-2004. Now, I am Professor of Sociology, emeritus, at CSUF.

My wife Carol and I are planning to live at this address for awhile. We often travel to Japan (at least twice a year) and I am also involved in research and writing. Our daughter Noriko teaches at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and our son Michitake is a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin.

**William H. Anderl - #679
4911 – 33rd Avenue North
Golden Valley, Minnesota 55422**

As Junior Steward, I ordered 2% milk for the fraternity, think we would all be better off with lower butterfat. In my whole year of meal planning and working as a waiter, I never had so many guys upset. Whole milk was like a sacred drink to these Iowa farm boys. So the whole milk returned to the tables. I also tried to serve liver and spinach at an evening meal once and nearly lost my job!

**Steven J. Casper IV - #905
North 66 West 30833 Red Fox Run
Hartland, Wisconsin 53029**

Some of my favorite memories include our VEISHEA Fundraisers, competing in our intramural teams with Rich Jamrock and Company, and the Friday night dinners and card games with Kerry Fladung, Roger Kingery and Tim Seldwish.

Greetings Brothers!

I hope that the newsletter finds you in fine spirits. All is well here at the Koph chapter of Acacia.

I am once again pleased and honored to announce that **Acacia Fraternity** claimed **first** in both **active chapter** and **new member** GPA. The active chapter received a 3.43, over a

quarter of a grade point higher than our closest competitor. Our new members garnered a 3.16, also more than a quarter of grade point higher than the nearest competition. The men of Acacia will continue to work hard and attempt to improve on our academic record.

The spring saw the conclusion of Varieties and the men of Acacia were proud to take home third place overall. The pairing of Acacia, Alpha Gamma Rho, and Alpha Omicron Pi also received several individual awards such as "Best Theatrical Set." The brothers are excited about the opportunity to perform next year.

On March 5th Acacia had its first Mom's weekend since we re-chartered. This was an opportunity for the men of Acacia to spend time with their families and each other. The brothers furnished a lovely brunch and then escorting their mothers to Reiman Gardens. The mothers enjoyed their time with their sons and with each other. We are excited about the event and hope that it will become an annual Acacian tradition.

The summer recruitment is in full swing and our rush chair, brothers John Kvinge and John Thomas Vogel are hard at work planning events and entertaining prospective members. I will be excited to introduce a new crop of prospective members to you in the fall; these young men could be our best yet.

As a relatively new chapter in the Greek community we have yet to establish a major philanthropy. We had hoped to rectify that last semester, but were unable to schedule a good date due to university and Greek community conflicts. So I am proud to announce the inaugural "**Acacia Waterball Challenge**" which will be a joint venture between the local fire department and Acacia Fraternity on the first weekend in September. The competition, one that is performed at the Firefighters Olympics, is open to all students at the university. All proceeds will be evenly split between the Shriner's Burn Unit and the local firefighter's charity.

The brothers are excited for homecoming and expect our pairing with Sigma Phi Epsilon, Delta Lambda Phi, and Kappa Delta to accomplish great things this year. Be expecting an update from homecoming in the next newsletter.

I will close in the same fashion that I did last time saying that the chapter will continue this semester, as we do every semester, to strive to excel and improve in the areas we are proficient and strengthen our areas of weakness. We will work hard to, as the credo commands, better our fraternity's record. We thank you all for the guidance you have given us through the years and look forward to your continued encouragement and support.

The Iowa State Acacia website address has changed. Please go to the following address to see what's new at the Iowa State Chapter.

www.stuorg.iastate.edu/acacia/

Board President's Message

*Harold Zarr, Corporate Board President - The ACACIANS
215 Glen Drive
Iowa Falls, Iowa 50126-1957
e-mail: acacia_814@hotmail.com*

Greetings my Brother ACACIANS!

I apologize for the delay in getting the May newsletter out so late, but we wanted to include the grade results in the newsletter before we sent it out. We hope you will understand.

Improvements to the house have been fast and furious this spring. We had a new rood installed, got the second floor rooms and hallway all painted, had the carpets in the house professionally cleaned, we cleaned all of the accumulated "junk" out of the house, and we performed a number of needed maintenance items as well – and we got this all done in the space of three weeks! We were busy to say the least!

Rush is going well and from what I have heard, it appears that we should have five new members by the end of the month, halfway to our goal of ten new pledges for the fall.

My apology to Brother Richard G. Wilson - #409 whose name was inadvertently left off our list of alumni contributors for 2004.

In Memoriam

We remember our Brothers with whom we were privileged to share our Fraternity and have departed from us.

Robert A. Blaser - #313	Date Unknown
John Gordon Johnson - #365	February 24, 2005
Darwin D. Hook - #414	November 15, 2004

Corporate Board Members

The following Brothers are your representatives on the Corporate Board. The Corporate Board is composed of both active chapter members and alumni.

New Website Address!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact them at your convenience. **Remember, we are here to represent you and to work for the best interests of the Fraternity.** Your comments and suggestions are very valuable to us, and we hope that you will share your thoughts with us.

Feel free to contact us whenever you have ideas, suggestions or concerns!

Harold Zarr	President	515-964-6696
Michael O'Doherty	Vice-President	
Jeff Peil	Treasurer	641-430-5998
Gene Lucht	Secretary	
Ed Vuper	Alumni Relations	

Trenton Norman	Chapter President	515-233-0145
Jared Kline	Chapter Treasurer	515-233-0145
John Kvinge	Chapter Representative	515-233-0145
Jeremy Davis	Chapter Advisor	515-291-7016

Newsletter Information

The newsletter is sent to all of the alumni, pledges and actives of the ISU Chapter of ACACIA Fraternity, and their parents. We take great pride in their accomplishments, and it is our wish that their parents learn about the activities and accomplishments of their sons within the Fraternity.

This newsletter is sent at **no cost** to all of its recipients, although donations directed towards the cost of this publication will be accepted by the Board. Should you wish to make a contribution, please make your check payable to **The ACACIANS**, in any amount.

The next newsletter is planned for August, 2005. (They are sent out on a quarterly basis, every February, May, August, and November.) If you have any information you would like to share, please send it to **Harold Zarr** at his e-mail address **acacia_814@hotmail.com**. Take care, and best wishes to all of the Brothers and friends of our Fraternity.